



# An approach for risk index assessment due to direct contact to the municipal solid Waste dumps

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**Citation**

Himanshu Yadav, Singh VP. An approach for risk index assessment due to direct contact to the municipal solid Waste dumps.

*Discovery*, 2021, 57(302), 135-144

## ABSTRACT

Due to rapid urbanization and growth in the population in India, the generation rate of municipal solid waste is increased and it leads to the problem of waste management. Waste is being disposed in open which leads to the various environmental problems. To overcome these problems, the dumpsites need to be close and remedial measure to be taken according to their contamination potential. Various methods are being used to assess the risk from these dumpsites. Hazard rating systems are most common because these are easy to use and require less data than other approaches. This method assesses the risk by Direct Contact route and is based on Source – Pathway – Receptor linkage methodology. Basic parameters like area, height and composition of waste is added to the existing system HDM (Hazard Decision Model). This system is applied to the seven artificial dumpsites with varying characteristics. Sensitivity analysis of new system is performed to check the sensitivity of each parameter on the system. Clustering analysis of new and existing systems are compared direct contact route like ERP-HRS (Environmental Repair Problem Hazard Ranking System) and HDM. The direct contact risk index assessment is done for two dumpsites of Allahabad, India. New system shows better and justified results and this system can be used to assess the direct contact risk from the dumpsites.

**Keywords:** Direct Contact, Risk Assessment, Open Dumping, Municipal Solid Waste, Source – Pathway – Receptor.

## INTRODUCTION

As a result of rapid urbanization and rapid population growth in India lead to generation of huge quantity of waste and environmental degradation. Various studies have confirmed that open dumping of waste leads to various problems such as groundwater contamination, surface water contamination, air pollution and various disease vectors are grown due to it (Powrie et al. 2015, Bhalla et al. 2012, Jhamnami and Singh, 2009, Vinothini and Kavitha, 2015, Tengku Ibrahim et al. 2017, Kumar et al. 2017, Chukwu and Ukpaka, 2018; Mahmud Imam Mohammed and Jimoh, 2018). Due to financial aspects India is not able to rehabilitate all the dumpsites. There is need to determine risk due to the dumpsite. Various hazard rating systems are available and are widely used by various countries. Many of them are not applicable for Indian problems because conditions in India differ from developed countries (Shafi Ibrahim and Ahamed Sheriff, 2015).

In this study, various factors affecting the direct contact are being identified based on previous literature and also there interrelationship are find out. Some factors from existing systems were replaced with the new factors and are properly arranged. The improved system has been compared with the existing systems by applying them to the set of waste dumpsites of varying characteristics. Sensitivity analysis and clustering analysis were performed for both new and existing system. Lastly, direct contact risk index assessment were done for Phaphamau and Bakshi Band dumpsites of Allahabad, India and also compared with the ratings from HDM and ERP-HRS.

### Existing systems for waste dumps

Various systems like ERP-HRS, DRASTIC, RASCL, JENV, RSS, GW-HARAS, SW-HARAS, OD-HARAS, HDM, WARM etc. exist to assess various environmental hazards from the waste dump sites. Source – Pathway – Receptor methodology is very common and is used in most of these systems. These systems are based upon various routes for contamination transport like groundwater, surface water, soil, air, and direct contact etc. These systems have various parameters and different scoring algorithms.

Systems formulated in developed countries do not work well in India because of large size of the dumpsites. So, system from the developed countries needs to be modified before using it in India. Table 1 gives an overview of existing assessment tools and their hazard routes.

**Table 1** Existing systems for risk assessment and their routes considered

System Name	Groundwater	Surface water	Air	Direct contact	Explosion	Reference
ERP-HRS	√	√	√	√	√	[5]
DRASTIC	√					[1]
JENV	Combined Score					[7]
RSS	√	√		√		[10]
GW-HARAS	√					[14]
HDM	√			√	√	[11]
OD-HARAS			√			[8]
SW-HARAS		√				[3]
WARM	√	√	√			[13]

### Framework for new system

The framework of the new system is derived from already developed system by (Naveen et al., 2017) and (Kumar et al., 2015). This system is based on Source – Pathway – Receptor concept (Fig. 1). In this study, Source means Dumpsite and parameters associated with dumpsite referred as Source parameters. Mainly it covers the quantity and quality of waste. Pathway refers to the parameters associated with migration of contamination from source to the receptor. Receptor means living being and surrounding environment affected from dumpsite.

For risk evaluation each of the three components is assessed on a scale based on various parameters. In the proposed system, Risk index due to direct contact due to dumpsite is given by

$$RI_{DC} = \frac{RI_S * RI_P * RI_R}{SF} * 1000 \quad (1)$$

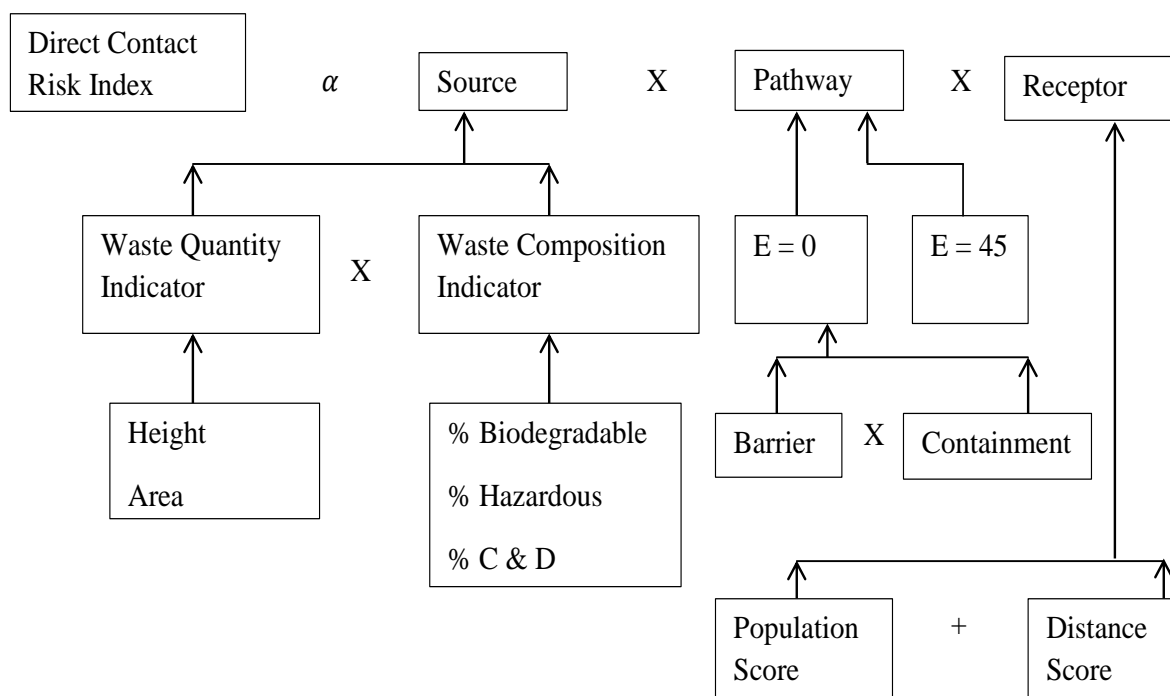
Where,

$RI_S$  is the source risk index,

$RI_P$  is the pathway risk index,

$RI_R$  is the receptor risk index and

SF is the scaling factor.



**Figure 1** Conceptual diagram for framework of direct contact risk index

### Guiding principles

The evaluation of components is based on some observations:

- The larger quantity of waste will have greater direct contact; so greater direct contact risk index.
- The greater percentage of biodegradable waste as compared to construction and demolition waste will have more direct contact risk.
- In case of evidence where the contact to the waste material at dumpsite resulted to the illness, injury or death to any animal or human will be considered more hazardous.
- In case of no such evidence (explained in iii) direct contact risk will depend on barrier and containment.
- If dumpsite is accessible to the human or animal easily then the direct contact risk will be higher.
- If bottom of dumpsite is in direct contact with the soil, pond or creek etc. then direct contact risk will be more.
- Presence of more population near the dumpsite will have higher direct contact risk.
- If dumpsite is near the sensitive environment then it will have more direct contact impact.

## METHODOLOGY

### Direct contact risk index assessment

The system consists of source, pathway and receptor. The source is assumed to depend mainly on waste area, waste height and waste composition. The pathway consists of evidence, barrier and containment. The receptors are mainly dependent on population near the dumpsite and distance from the sensitive environment.

### Source risk index

The source risk index is given by:

$$RI_s = W_{qi} * W_{ci} \quad (2)$$

Where,

$W_{qi}$  = waste quantity indicator and

$W_{ci}$  = waste composition indicator have been defined in (Singh et al., 2009).

The waste quantity indicator is a measure of total waste quantity in a landfill in comparison to other landfill and is given by:

$$W_{qi} = \sqrt{\frac{W_q}{3}} \quad (3)$$

Where,

$W_q$  = waste quantity in tons.

The density of wastes at the landfill is assumed to be 0.80 tons/ m<sup>3</sup>(Singh et al., 2013). The maximum value of  $W_{qi}$  is limited to 1000.

The waste composition indicator is relative measure of toxicity of waste. For mixed waste  $W_{ci}$  is given as

$$W_{ci} = \frac{25H+5B+C}{5} \quad (4)$$

Where,

H = Hazardous Fraction (%),

B = Biodegradable fraction (%),

C = C&D waste fraction (%), and H+B+C ≤ 100.

The value of  $W_{ci}$  should be less than 100.

#### *Pathway risk index*

The pathway risk index is calculated as

$$RI_p = E, \text{ if } E = 45 \quad (5)$$

$$RI_p = B_i * C_i \text{ if } E = 0 \quad (6)$$

Where,

E = Evidence where the direct contact to the dumpsite causes illness, death, or injury to the human or animal. The value of E is taken as 45 otherwise 0.

$B_i$  = Barrier, and

$C_i$  = Containment.

$B_i$  = Barrier score is explained in Table 2 and are based on ERP-HRS.

**Table 2** Barrier score based on site condition

Barrier	Barrier Level	Score, B <sub>i</sub>
A 24 – hour surveillance system which continuously monitors and control entry onto the facility. OR An Artificial or Natural barrier which surrounds the facility and control entry all the time.	Level 4	0
Security guard, but no barrier	Level 3	1
A barrier, but no other way to control entry	Level 2	2
Barriers do not completely surround the facility	Level 1	3

Containment ( $C_i$ ) indicates if the waste dump is in direct contact with the ground surface, shallow pond or creek than i=this value is assigned as 15 otherwise 0. Containment,  $C_i$ , in case of waste dump sites in Indian condition is 15 as each site has the direct contact with the surface as there is no liner system for dumpsites.

#### Receptor risk index

Receptor risk index is based on HDM (B.P. and Geol, 2017) and it is given by:

$$RI_R = D_{SN} + N_{Pop} \quad (7)$$

Where,

$D_{SN}$  = Distance score which indicates score according to the distance to the Sensitive Environment, and

$N_{Pop}$  = Population score which indicates population at risk of Direct Contact.

$$D_{SN} = 21.9 - (\text{Distance}(km) * 5.4878) \quad (8)$$

For Distances  $\geq 3.25$  km,  $D_{SN}$  value is taken to be 0 and for distances  $\leq 0.4$  km, the value of  $D_{SN}$  is taken to be 20.

$$N_{Pop} = 3.83 * \text{population}^{0.1742} \quad (9)$$

$N_{Pop}$  indicates score for population at risk of direct contact, living within 1.6 km radial distance of the dumpsite. For population  $\geq 13000$ ,  $N_{Pop}$  is taken to be 20.

#### Overall direct contact risk index

The direct contact risk index can be calculated by using equation (1):

$$RI_{DC} = \frac{RI_S * RI_P * RI_R}{SF} * 1000$$

Where,

$RI_{DC}$  is the direct contact risk index and SF is the scaling factor.

The scaling factor is equal to the product of source, pathway, and receptor risk index of waste dumpsite having its parameters at worst values. The maximum value of risk index of a site is restricted to the 1000. the best and worst values are given in Table 3.

**Table 3** Best and worst value of site parameters for improved living system for direct contact

S. No.	Waste Site Parameters	Best Values	Worst Values
1.	Waste site area	$\leq 5$	$\geq 25$
2.	Waste site height/depth	$\leq 5$	$\geq 15$
3.	Biodegradable Fraction (%)	0	$\geq 75$
4.	Hazardous Fraction (%)	0	$\geq 75$
5.	C & D (%)	100	0
6.	Evidence, E	No	Yes
7.	Barrier, $B_i$	Level 4	Level 1
8.	Containment, $C_i$	Yes	No
9.	Distance to the sensitive environment (km)	$\geq 3.25$	$\leq 0.4$
10.	Population at risk of Direct Contact	0	$\geq 13000$

#### Validation of the proposed system

The proposed system is validated by three criteria: ranges of scores, clustering analysis and sensitivity analysis. The performance of risk index can be measured in terms of spread of values of score of waste sites of continuously varying properties. Clustering analysis is done to measure uniformity in the spread of score across 0 to 1000. Sensitivity analysis is done to measure the response of the system to the variation in the values of individual parameters.

## APPLICATION TO SITES HAVING VARYING CHARACTERISTICS

The new system was applied to the seven artificial dumpsites having varying characteristics from W1 to W7 with increasing direct contact risk index. The best and worst values of parameters are selected from the various literatures. The site characteristics for the waste dumps are given in Table 4. The score calculated from new system is in the range of 0-1000 (Table 5). The scores from new system is compared with existing (Table 6, Fig. 2).

The scores obtained from the new system is checked for clustering index and also compared with the clustering index from the HDM and ERP-HRS and results are shown in Table 6. Clustering index is the indication for the spread of results to the full scale; lower the value indicates better spread. Clustering index is calculated as given in (Kumar et al., 2015).

**Table 4** Site characteristics of the waste dump sites with continuously varying characteristic

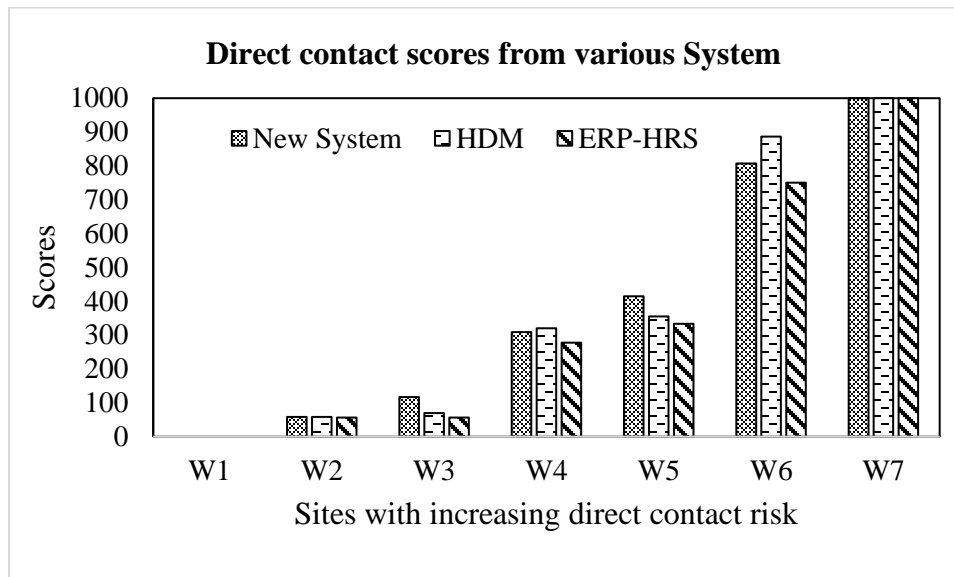
Waste Parameters	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
Waste site area (ha)	5	10	15	15	20	25	30
Waste site height/depth (m)	5	10	12.5	15	15	15	20
Waste Toxicity	Level 0	Level 1	Level 1	Level 2	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Biodegradable Fraction (%)	40	50	60	65	65	70	75
Hazardous Fraction (%)	1	2	3	3	4	4	5
C & D (%)	30	25	20	15	10	5	0
Evidence, E	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Barrier, B <sub>i</sub>	Level 4	Level 3	Level 3	Level 2	Level 2	Level 1	Level 1
Containment, C <sub>i</sub>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Distance to the sensitive environment (km)	3.25	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.4
Population at risk of Direct Contact	500	3000	5000	7000	8000	10000	13000

**Table 5** Direct contact risk index for dumpsites with continuously varying characteristics

Risk Index	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
Source Risk Index	13168	33566	55861	64292	77815	91000	100000
Pathway Risk Index	0	15	15	30	30	45	45
Receptor Risk Index	11	21	25	29	32	35	40
Overall Risk Index	0	58	117	309	415	807	1000

**Table 6** Direct contact risk index for dumpsite with new and existing systems

Score	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	Clustering Index
New System	0	58	117	309	415	807	1000	0.28
HDM	0	58	70	320	355	887	1000	0.45
ERP – HRS	0	56	56	278	333	750	1000	0.39



**Figure 2** Direct contact risk index from new and existing systems

#### Sensitivity analysis for direct contact risk index

Sensitivity analysis of improved system was carried out to observe the sensitivity of the system to changes in values of various parameters. To perform sensitivity analysis, a site having values of all parameters at their mid value was assumed as base case (Table 7). The results of sensitivity analysis have been given in Table 8.

**Table 7** Parameters at base case for sensitivity analysis for direct contact

S. No.	Site Parameters	Parameter value
1	Waste site area (ha)	15
2	Waste site height/depth (m)	10
3	Waste Toxicity	Level 2
4	Biodegradable Fraction (%)	60
5	Hazardous Fraction (%)	3
6	C & D (%)	10
7	Evidence, E	No
8	Barrier, B <sub>i</sub>	Level 2
9	Containment, C <sub>i</sub>	No
10	Distance to the sensitive environment (km)	2.0
11	Population at risk of Direct Contact	7000

From the sensitivity analysis, it can be seen that system is most sensitive to the pathway factors. The total change in the score is about 150 % when pathway scenario changes from best to the worst. Waste site area, height, barrier and Biodegradable fraction shows high sensitivity. Distance to the sensitive environment and population at risk of direct contact shows minimum changes.

**Table 8** Results from sensitivity analysis of new system for direct contact

Base case scenario		Best and worst values for the parameters (change as % of full range)	Resultant Score (New System)		Total Change (%)
Site parameters	Parameter value		Score	% Change	
Waste site area (ha)	15	a) 5 (-67%)	135	- 42.3	71.4
		b) 25 (67%)	302	29.1	
Waste site height/depth (m)	10	a) 5 (-50%)	165	- 29.5	52.1

		b) 15 (50%)	287	22.6	
Biodegradable Fraction (%)	60	a) 30 (-50%)	143	-38.9	76.9
		b) 90 (50%)	323	38.0	
Barrier, B <sub>i</sub>	Level 2	a) Level 4	0	- 100	150
		b) Level 1	351	50	
Distance to the sensitive environment (km)	2.0	a) 1.0 (-50%)	278	18.8	38
		b) 3.0 (50%)	189	- 19.2	
Population at risk of Direct Contact	7000	a) 3500	217	- 7.3	12
		b) 10500	245	4.7	

\*Score for the base case was 234.

### System application

The new system was applied to the two dumpsites (Phaphamau and Bakshi Band) of Allahabad. These sites are old and do not receive waste at present and do not have any liner or cover system. Sites are present in low lying area near Ganga River in Allahabad. Site parameters are given in Table 9. To obtain data regarding dumpsites, office of Allahabad Municipal Corporation was contacted. Some of the data was obtained by the site visit to the dumpsite and parameters like waste area and distance to the river etc. were taken with the help of bhuvan portal.

The score obtained for Phaphamau and Bakshi Band from new system is given in Table 10. The direct contact risk index is higher for Bakshi Band than Phaphamau due to greater size of Bakshi Band site.

**Table 9** Site Characteristics of MSW dumps of Allahabad

Parameters	Phaphamau	Bakshi Band
Waste site area (ha)	0.6	5.5
Waste site height/depth (m)	8.5	10
Biodegradable Fraction (%)	64	64
Hazardous Fraction (%)	1	1
C & D (%)	20	20
Evidence, E	No	No
Barrier, B <sub>i</sub>	Level 1	Level 1
Containment, C <sub>i</sub>	No	No
Distance to the sensitive environment (km)	0	0
Population at risk of Direct Contact	≥ 13000	≥ 13000

**Table 10** Direct contact risk index of dumpsites from new system

Site	Phaphamau	Bakshi Band
Source Risk Index	8259	27957
Pathway Risk Index	45	45
Receptor Risk Index	20	20
Overall Groundwater Risk Index	41	139

## CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions can be drawn from the study:

- The proposed system evaluates the risk from the dumpsite due to the direct contact route. The study includes various parameters waste area, waste height, waste composition, barrier, containment, evidence, population at risk to direct contact and distance to the sensitive environment.
- The new system shows lower value of clustering index than the existing systems, the system with no clustering means the scores are evenly distributed over full range of scale.
- From the sensitivity analysis of new system, the parameter Barrier shows the maximum sensitivity and the population at the risk



of direct contact shows the minimum sensitivity.

- When new system is applied to the municipal waste dumpsites of varying characteristics, the new system gives the score in the range of 0 – 1000.
- Waste dump sites of Allahabad shows lower value of direct contact risk index due to the smaller size of the dumpsite.
- Direct contact risk index can be further minimized by providing with the higher level of barrier or restricting the dumpsite area to the public by some boundary.

#### Funding:

This study has not received any external funding.

#### Conflict of Interest:

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interests.

#### Peer-review:

External peer-review was done through double-blind method.

#### Data and materials availability:

All data associated with this study are present in the paper.

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#### Peer-review

External peer-review was done through double-blind method.

#### Article History

Received: 20 November 2020

Reviewed & Revised: 21/November/2020 to 04/January/2021

Accepted: 06 January 2021

Prepared: 09 January 2021

Published: February 2021

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